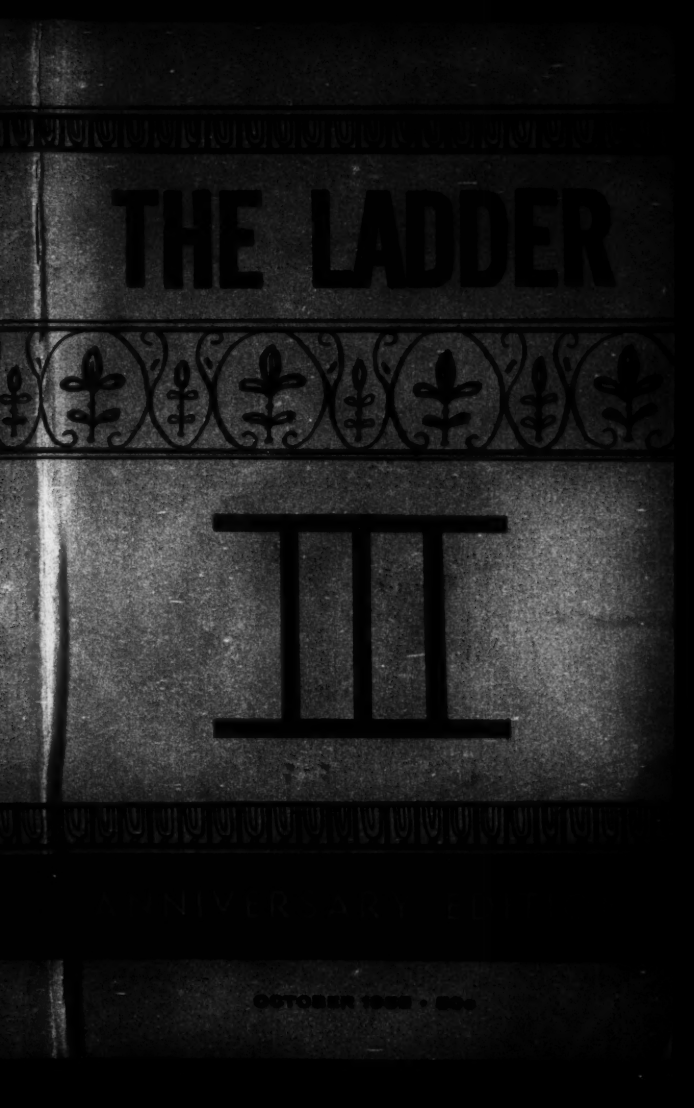
THE LADDER
III
OCTOBER 1958 • 25¢

Purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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COVER BY MELL

EDITORIAL

Growing Pains

Three years ago the handful of women then comprising the membership of the DOB decided to "go for broke" - and thus THE LADDER was born.

What started as a small, mimeographed "newsletter" has now become a full-fledged national magazine. But there is still room for much improvement and expansion - as much or more than marks the difference between our first issue and this one - funds available and labor willing.

At this, the beginning of our fourth year of monthly publication, we thought our readers might be interested in how the magazine is put together.

First the material arrives at the office - stories, poems, articles, drawings for covers, letters to the editor and other miscellaneous items. This must all be read carefully, not only to see if it merits publication and that it violates no laws, but also for spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.

Besides the contributed material there are also staff articles, primarily editorial or reportorial.

From the material available, then, some must be chosen to appear in a particular issue. Sometimes this is a difficult decision, and the space factor can be of preeminent consideration. For instance, in the case of a long story and a short story of equal value, probably the short story will win out because of that very fact - it is short and so allows for more variety in the issue.

After it is decided what stories and articles are to appear in an issue they must be typed up as they will be in the magazine - four inches wide on the typewriters at THE LADDER office. After they are typed they must again

(Continued on page 21)

MATTACHINE Breaks Through the Conspiracy of Silence

The barrier of the so-called "conspiracy of silence" with reference to mention of the homophile movement in the press was crashed with a bang at the sixth annual convention of the Mattachine Society held in Denver last month.

True to the convention theme "New Frontiers in Acceptance of the Homophile", the Denver Area Council of Mattachine, host to the convention, invited members of the two local newspapers to attend the open sessions of the convention. A reporter from the "Denver Post" attended the sessions, and a reporter from the "Rocky Mountain News" was present at a press conference held at the end of the Saturday meetings. Representatives of the DOB, ONE Inc. and Mattachine were present.

Net result of the effort to obtain publicity was a total of seven newspaper stories, both pre-convention and after, all presenting, honestly and fairly, the aims of the Society and the homophile movement.

A sincere vote of thanks is due the Denver Area Council and the Mattachine Society for their pioneering effort in obtaining recognition from the press. It cannot but make the way easier for all of us.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Speaker at the luncheon on Saturday was Dr. Leo V. Tepley, psychiatrist from Denver.

A charming, elderly man, originally from Russia, Dr. Tepley looked out over the audience and noted that they appeared to be a "bunch of highbrows". He noted too with a tinge of dispair the comparatively small group present (approximately 60), "Fear keeps people away from here."

Dr. Tepley, recalling incidents from his 40 years of psychiatric practice, pointed out that homosexuals have a high degree of sensitivity - "not to be confounded with touchi-

ness". Why so? Probably something in early environment - both parental and hereditary.

"The great majority of homosexuals I know or with whom I have had personal contact I have found just a little above average," he said. "Patients don't come to be cured (and I am not sure this is the proper thing to do anyway), but for particular emotional problems."

"Basically people are more alike than different," Dr. Tepley declared. But it is the little differences that count to the psychiatrist.

He spoke of "the devilish trinity of the human mind - selfishness, stupidity and misunderstanding" and advised those in the homophile movement to "be patient and explain and explain. Give the people light," he said, "and they will find their way."

TEACHING PROFESSION DISCUSSED

Dr. Robert Samuels, assistant professor of education at a state college, opened the panel discussion on civil liberties. He spoke of the rigid screening of those applying for teaching credentials, the loyalty oath required in some states, the checking of arrests for other than traffic violations, and the "most arbitrary disciplinary boards."

Frequently offenses which may bar a person from teaching by decision of a moralistic, unenlightened disciplinary board happened when the individual was very young, Dr. Samuels pointed out. Assuming that many of these people could and would be valuable teachers, this situation is indeed unfortunate.

Dr. Samuels deplored the lack of sex knowledge among his colleagues. As a group they act moralistic - teachers have a habit of acting and speaking as they feel is expected of them. However, as individuals in less formal surroundings they are a fairly enlightened group.

While Dr. Samuels was desirous of more understanding towards apparently erring teachers, he did say there was a "cutting point" where chances are there would be less mistakes beyond this point.

"I think we have come a long way toward professional acceptance of deviation among our students," she said. "People learn to think differently and learn to express their thoughts differently so as not to come out of the same mold."

"The educated person is one who thinks otherwise."

CIVIL LIBERTIES PROBLEMS

"It is the don'ts we are struggling with today - the traditional morals in law. The common law becomes too common some times, "William F. Reynard, Denver attorney and member of the Board of the Colorado branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, declared.

"The ACLU takes no position on states having the right to pass laws on sex actions," he said, "but we are interested in the right to just treatment, just sentencing."

Mr. Reynard pointed out that civil rights are narrower in scope that civil liberties - those freedoms above and beyond rights. The ninth amendement to the United States Constitution provides that rights not specifically enumerated were reserved to the states and the people, with "maximum amount of freedom consumate with social welfare."

"Homophiles are becoming more articulate," Mr. Reynard noted. There is a growing amount of literature in the field. The growth of fiction is particularly signficant, he said, since in the past fiction has been the forerunner of social change. It is through this medium usually that the general public comes to the discovery that a problem exists.

Mr. Reynard cited the problem of general urbanization. "Minority problems are aggravated in greater concentrations of population," he said. The tendency of the homosexual to seek larger centers of population raises many civil liberties problems.

People are becoming more aware that homosexuality is a sizable problem, and there is a greater realization that the problem is here to stay because of inability to change the orientation of these persons, Mr. Reynard said.

He cited the following areas in which civil liberties problems arise:

1. Dragnet techniques in making arrests.
2. Registration of sex offenders.
3. Line-ups.
4. Entrapment.
5. Clean up drives.
6. Police brutality.
7. Blackmail and rolling.
8. Fairness of trial.
9. Indeterminate sentence.
10. Unfairness and discrimination of employment.

There is not too much law on the rights of students, and school administrators are not the best "impartial authorities". The ACLU is interested in setting up fair hearings for students who may be deprived of academic education, Mr. Reynard added.

In conclusion, he pointed out that here was a great challenge for the homophile organizations to continue open discussion of the subject. When charges arise, they should seek assistance from other organizations and persons interested in civil liberties.

"Allies can be found in other organizations, which may not be sympathetic to your bread program, but who are interested in fair practices.... The common law system in the United States can grow and change, and it is hoped there will be a re-definition of the laws on our statute books."

A LEGISLATOR'S POINT OF VIEW

In speaking of a "sensitive area that needs attention", the Hon. Robert E. Allen, majority floor leader of the House of Representatives of the Colorado Legislature, was chiefly concerned with the problem of discrimination relative to employment, law, education and social acceptance.

He said that he wasn't aware before of the practive of denying benefits of the G. I. Bill of Rights to veterans with an undesir-

(Continued on Page 16)

Love is a Dandelion

BY JAY WALLACE

HE TURNED HIS HEAD, WHISKERS TWITCHING, AND LOOKED AT HER OUT OF THE CORNER OF HIS YELLOW-GREEN EYE, THEN HE SCAMPERED ON AHEAD OF HER, BOUNCING THROUGH THE WEEDS. WHEN HE HAD MEASURED ENOUGH DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HER PATTERING FEET, HE SAT DOWN AND WAITED. HE LOOKED QUITE ENTICING, WITH HIS BROWN EARS, AND HIS BLACK STRIPES, AND HIS LONG, WHITE WHISKERS. SHE ADVANCED SLOWLY NOW, HOPING TO CORNER HIM AT THE POINT WHERE THE FENCE MET THE HEDGES; BUT WHEN SHE WAS ALMOST UPON HIM, HE SCAMPERED QUICKLY OUT OF SIGHT. SHE STOOD THERE, ALMOST ON THE VERGE OF TEARS, STARING AT THE RIFT IN THE HEDGES THROUGH WHICH HE HAD DISAPPEARED. SHE WAS STILL HOLDING HER LITTLE BOUQUET OF WILTED DANDELIONS IN A GRUBBY FIST. THEN SHE SAW HIM SPRING UP ON TOP OF THE FENCE. HE SAT THERE OBSERVING HER WITH HIS HUGE UNBLINKING EYES. THEN HE RAISED A PALE TAN PAW, AND BEGAN TO WASH HIS FACE. HE WAS EVEN MORE INTRIGUING NOW THAN HE HAD BEEN IN THE BEGINNING OF THE CHASE.

"HERE KITTY, HERE KITTY. . ." SHE CALLED SOFTLY, HOLDING OUT HER HAND. HE GAVE HER AN ICY STARE, AND BEGAN TO WALK ALONG THE FENCE, THEN HE JUMPED DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE. SHE WALKED ALONG AFTER HIM FOR SEVERAL YARDS, THEN SHE NOTICED AN OPENING IN THE FENCE, WHERE A WEATHERBEATEN BOARD HAD FALLEN AWAY. WITHOUT THINKING OF WHAT SHE WAS DOING, SHE SLIPPED THROUGH THE OPENING. HE WAS SITTING ON A WEED-GROWN PATH. JUST A FEW FEET AHEAD OF HER. SHE MOVED CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD HIM, BUT HE RAN OFF AGAIN, DISAPPEARING THIS TIME INTO AN OPEN CELLAR DOOR. IT WAS THE OLD-FASHIONED TYPE CELLAR, WITH SLANTED DOORS, ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE. SHE LEANED CLOSER, SMELLING THE MUSTY ODOR. THE EARLY MORNING SUNLIGHT MADE A SQUARE DESIGN ON THE DUSTY STEPS; BEYOND THAT, SHE COULD SEE NOTHING. SHE RAISED HER EYES AND LOOKED UP AT THE HOUSE, REMEMBERING THEN WHERE SHE WAS. SHE HAD NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE BEFORE, AND IT STIRRED HER INTEREST. IT LOOKED DIFFERENT CLOSE; NOT SO WEIRD OR STRANGE. THE WINDOWS HAD PINK CURTAINS AT THEM. BUT IT WAS STILL THE HOUSE THAT BELONGED TO THE BAD LADY. MOMMY HAD TOLD HER THAT SHE MUST NEVER, NEVER GO INTO THE YARD OF THE BAD LADY. SHE REMEMBERED HER MOTHER'S WARNING, AND SHE TURNED TO

RUN, HER ONLY THOUGHT NOW, ESCAPE. SHE STARTED VIOLENTLY, AS THE SHADOW FELL ACROSS HER FACE.

THEY STOOD STARING AT EACH OTHER. SHE COULD FEEL HER HEART BEATING WILDLY INSIDE HER CHEST. SHE HAD NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO THE BAD LADY BEFORE. SHE HAD SEEN HER ON THE STREET MANY TIMES; BUT SHE HAD NEVER BEFORE LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO THE BAD LADY'S EYES. SHE NOTICED THAT THEY WERE A BRIGHT, CORNFLOWER BLUE. AND, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE BAD LADY DIDN'T LOOK BAD, OR EVEN ANGRY. SHE WAS SMILING; AND SHE WAS CARRYING A PLATE OF SOMETHING IN HER HAND.

"LOOKING FOR SKIPPY?" ASKED THE BAD LADY.

THE CHILD NODDED. "YES MA'M" SHE REPLIED. HER WORDS WERE ALMOST INAUDIBLE. SHE HELD THE WILTED DANDELIONS CLOSE TO HER CHEST.

"THIS IS FOR HIM. WANT TO SEE HIM EAT? YOU CAN PET HIM WHEN HE COMES OUT OF THE CELLAR."

"OKAY."

THE BAD LADY WENT CLOSER TO THE CELLAR DOOR AND CALLED: "HERE SKIPPY. . . SKIPPEE. . .SKIPPEE. . .HERE SKIPPY. DINNER."

HE CAME DASHING UP OUT OF THE CELLAR, AND MADE STRAIGHT FOR THE DISH OF FOOD. THE CHILD REACHED OVER TIMIDLY AND BEGAN TO STROKE HIS BACK WHILE HE ATE. HER EYES SHONE WITH A DEEP HAPPINESS.

THE BAD LADY HAD LIGHTED A CIGARETTE FROM A PACK SHE CARRIED IN THE POCKET OF HER FADED BLUE JEANS. SHE WAS WEARING A RED PLAID SHIRT; AND HER HAIR WAS CUT SHORT, LIKE DADDY'S. THE CHILD STARED AT HER WITH INTEREST.

"YOU LIKE CATS, GIRLIE?"

"YES MA'M. VERY MUCH."

"WHAT'S YOURS LIKE?"

"I CAN'T HAVE A CAT. MOMMY WON'T LET ME."

"OH, THAT'S TOO BAD. CATS ARE NICE. I LOVE SKIPPY A LOT."

THE CHILD SMILED AND NODDED. SHE LIKED THE BAD LADY.

"PICKING DANDELIONS? FOR YOUR MOTHER, I'LL BET. . ."

THE CHILD NODDED AGAIN. SHE FELT A TWINGE OF GUILT, BECAUSE SHE LIKE THE BAD LADY, AND MOMMY HAD TOLD HER NOT TO.

"I USED TO PICK DANDELIONS TOO, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL."

THE CHILD MOVED A STEP CLOSER. "FOR YOUR MOTHER?"

"OH YES, SHE LIKE THEM. DOES YOUR MOTHER LIKE THEM?"

"SOMETIMES. . ."

"MY MOTHER LIKED THEM SOMETIMES TOO; BUT I LIKE THEM ALL THE TIME. I LIKED THE WAY THEY CHANGED FROM ROUND YELLOW BUTTONS TO SILVERY WHITE PUFF-BALLS. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN ABOUT THEM?"

"OH YES. I BLOW ON THEM, AND THE WHITE FUZZ BLOWS ALL OVER."

"I DID THAT TOO, YEARS AGO. . .BUT SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN DOING THE SAME WITH OTHER THINGS, LIKE TIME. . .DAYS BLOW AWAY LIKE THAT. . .AND LOVE DOES TOO. GIRLIE, DID YOU KNOW THAT LOVE IS LIKE A DANDELION?"

THE CHILD SHOOK HER HEAD.

"WELL, IT IS. IT GROWS WILD, AND BLOSSOMS; AND THEN ONE DAY IT TURNS INTO A WHITE PUFF-BALL, AND THE SLIGHTEST BREEZE BLOWS IT AWAY. YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, DID YOU?"

"NO MA'M."

"YOU'LL FIND IT OUT SOMEDAY, GIRLIE."

"HOW DID YOU FIND IT OUT?"

"I FELL IN LOVE."

"OH. WHO WITH?"

THE BAD LADY REACHED INTO THE BACK POCKET OF HER JEANS AND PULLED OUT A WORN LEATHER WALLET. SHE OPENED IT SOLEMNLY TO A SMALL PHOTOGRAPH. SHE HANDED IT TO THE CHILD.

AFTER STUDYING THE PICTURE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, THE CHILD HANDED IT BACK. "HE'S NICE; BUT HE LOOKS LIKE A LADY."

"HE IS. . ."

"OH."

"SORT OF A MIXTURE, A HALF-AND-HALF. IN FACT, HE ISN'T A MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE A LADY, SHE'S A LADY WHO LOOKS LIKE A MAN."

"SHE'S NICE."

"THANK YOU."

"DID HER LOVE TURN WHITE AND BLOW AWAY?"

"YES IT DID."

"DID YOURS?"

"NO."

"BUT IT WILL, WON'T IT?"

"I SUPPOSE IT WILL. . .IN TIME. . ."

"THE DANDELIONS DO."

"YES, I KNOW. . ."

SHE RAN THROUGH THE FIELDS SNATCHING AT THE DANDELIONS TO GET A NEW BOUQUET. SHE HURRIED, GATHERING THE FLOWERS WITH TREMBLING HANDS. SHE FELT GUILTY, AND YET, STRANGELY ELATED. THE BAD LADY HAD SAID THAT SHE COULD COME BACK AT ANYTIME TO SEE SKIPPY; AND SHE KNEW SHE LOVED SKIPPY WITH HER WHOLE HEART AND SOUL. SHE WAS CERTAIN THAT HER LOVE FOR HIM WOULD NEVER TURN WHITE AND BLOW AWAY, LIKE A DANDELION.

LESBIANA

110. SIGN OF EROS BY PAUL BODIN, PUTNAM, 1953 (ALSO BERKELEY, 1954)

THIS CONCERNS A FRENCE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE AND HIS DISSATISFIED WIFE. THEY BOTH FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME WOMAN. (SEXUALLY, NOT MENTALLY). BOTH THE MAN AND HIS WIFE ARE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE WOMAN AND THEY END IN A DISOLUTE MENAGE ET TROIS.

111. THE RAINBOW HAS SLVEN COLORS BY NADIA LEGRAND. ST. MARTIN'S PRESS 1958.

LIFE HISTORY OF A SUCCESSFUL FEMALE NOVELIST TOLD BY SEVEN PEOPLE WHO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN HER LIFE. ONE OF THESE IS A 17 YEAR OLD GIRL, WHO TURNS TO THE NOVELIST IN SEARCH OF A MOTHER IMAGE TO REPLACE HER OWN MOTHER WHO HAS TREATED HER CRUELLY. THE KIND OF FEELING AND THE NATURE OF THE PASSION INVOLVED IS TREATED FRANKLY, HOWEVER, THE OLDER WOMAN MERELY TOLERATES HER DEVOTED SLAVE AND IS NOT EVEN SLIGHTLY INVOLVED. THE GIRL IN DESPERATION TRIES A PRETTY DEGRADING SOLUTION AND IS ONCE AGAIN KICKED BY THE NOVELIST. (FIGURATIVELY, OF COURSE.) THE INVOLVEMENT IS NEVER CONSUMMATED SO THE BOOK MUST BE CLASSIFIED AS VARIANT RATHER THAN LESBIAN BUT THERE IS NOTHING STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE GIRL EXCEPT A LITTLE COOPERATION.

112. HOUSE OF FURY BY FELICE SWADOS. DOUBLEDAY, 1941. (BERKELEY, 1959)

VERY WELL WRITTEN NOVEL ABOUT A GIRLS TRAINING SCHOOL. (IVY WALLED REFORMATORY) THERE ARE FOUR VARIANT ATTACHMENTS AND A GREAT DEAL OF MENTION OF LESBIANS AND SO FORTH. ALSO MOST OF THE WHITE GIRLS DISCUSS THE ATTRACTION THE NEGRO GIRLS SEEM TO POSSESS. BECAUSE OF THE EARLY DATE THIS MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE EARLIER NOVELS EXPOSING THESE SOCIAL PROBLEMS. IT CERTAINLY IS ONE OF THE BEST OF ITS KIND.

Poems of Renee Vivien translated for THE LADDER

by Abigail Sanford

MOURNFUL BACCHANTE

DAY NO LONGER PIERCES WITH ARROGANT ARROWS
THE WOODLANDS MARVELLING AT THE BEAUTY OF NIGHT.
IT IS THE TROUBLING HOUR WHEN BACCHANTES DANCE
AND THEIR OWN LANGOROUS RHYTHMS OVERWHELM THEM.

FROM THEIR TANGLED HAIR WEEPS SAP OF THE VINES,
LIGHTER THEIR DANCING FEET THAN THE WINGS OF THE WIND,
AND THE ROSE OF THEIR FLESH, THE PLIANT GRACE OF THEIR LIMBS
HAVE FILLED THE FOREST WITH THEIR EXCITED SMILES.

THE SINGING OF THE YOUNGEST IS LOW AND HOARSE,
HER PASSIONATE BREAST IS HEAVY, HEAVY WITH SOBS.
SHE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS - SHE IS PALE,
HER BROW SHOWS THE BITTER STORM OF A RISING TIDE.

THE WINE THAT HOLDS THE FLAVOR OF SUN-KISSED GRAPES
NEVER TO HER BRINGS BLESSED FORGETFULNESS;
HALF DRUNK SHE IS, BUT NOT PAST THE POINT OF SORROW,
AND THE LEAVES THAT CROWN HER PALLID BROW ARE BLACK.

EVERYTHING IN HER IS WEARY OF COUNTERFEIT PLEASURE,
AND THE SURE PREVISION OF MORNINGS CHILLY AND HARSH
COMES TO SPOIL THE HONEY AND FLAME OF CARESSES.
SHE IS LOST IN DREAM AMONG THE FESTAL ROSES...

FOR THEY REMIND HER OF KISSES SOON FORGOTTEN.
SHE WILL NEVER LEARN TO KNOW DESIRE WITHOUT ANGUISH,
SHE WHO ALWAYS WATCHES WITH MELANCHOLY
THE FLOWERS DYING AFTER A NIGHT OF ORGIES.

PROLONG THE NIGHT

PROLONG THE NIGHT, OH GODDESS WHO FILLS US WITH YEARNING!
HOLD BACK FROM US THE DAWN WITH SANDALS OF GOLD!
ALREADY OVER THE SEA THE FIRST FAINT DAYLIGHT
BEGINS TO GLEAM.

HIDE US STILL, SLEEPING BENEATH THY VEILS,
HAVING FORGOTTEN ALL DAY'S CRUELTIES!
LET THE WINE OF DARKNESS AND WIND OF STARS
OVERFLOW US WITH LOVE.

SINCE ONE CAN NEVER KNOW WHICH DAWN WILL RISE
BEARING SOME GRAY FUTURE WITHIN HER HANDS,
WE TREMBLE TO SEE FULL DAYLIGHT, ALL OUR DREAMS
FEARING TOMORROW.

AH, LEAVE YOUR GENTLE HANDS ON OUR CLOSED EYELIDS,
LET US, THOUGH VAINLY, RECALL OUR ECSTASY FLEETING!
GODDESS TO WHOM THE FADING OF ROSES IS PLEASING -
PROLONG THE NIGHT!

SONNET

YOUR REGAL YOUTH REVEALS THE MELANCHOLY
OF THAT FAR NORTH WHERE MISTS EFFACE ALL COLOR.
A NEED TO QUARREL WARS WITH A NEED TO WEEP
IN YOU WHO ARE GRAVE AS HAMLET, PALE AS OPHELIA.

LIKE HER, YOU WANDER, LIT BY A LOVELY MADNESS,
SHOWERING FLOWERS, SCATTERING BITS OF SONG;
LIKE HIM YOU HIDE YOUR SUFFERING UNDER PRIDE,
BUT YOUR ABSTRACTED LOOK BETRAYS YOUR PAIN.

SMILE, BLONDE SWEETHEART, OR BROOD ON, DARK LOVER.
YOUR AMBIVALENCE DRAWS LIKE A DOUBLE MAGNET,
YOUR FLESH HAS A WAX TAPER'S CHILLY ARDOR.

MY BAFFLED HEART IS TROUBLED WHEN I WATCH
YOUR PRINCELY FOREHEAD, VIRGIN'S EYES OF BLUE -
NOW YOU ARE HE, NOW SHE - AND YET BOTH TOGETHER.

WE RAN
THESE POEMS
LAST MAY.

HEREWITH -
ANOTHER'S
VERSION.

MATTACHINE BREAKS THROUGH
THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

(Continued from page 8)

able discharge and that he was "shocked at this act of Government." He went on to point out that this policy posed an interesting conflict considering the gifts the variant had to offer society and considered it a "sad commentary when the Government denies education to such a group."

Reasons for the discrimination problem, as Mr. Allen sees it, are: ignorance about things that are different and tendency to avoid anything "different"; fear which stems from guilt feelings and sex taboos ("Nothing could contribute to more misunderstanding and condemnation."); and the handling of homosexual cases by the morals or vice squads of the police ("No group is more ignorant in the field of sex offenses!").

Changing of existing statutes depends upon society, Mr. Allen said. Each country finds justification in history and religion for the laws they have set up, and change is slow to be accepted by the public and therefore the legislators. In this area of great taboo, legislators need the backing of competent psychiatrists, researchers and authorities in order to be effective in helping to bring about needed changes, he stated.

Members of the legislature are entirely dependent upon public opinion, Mr. Allen declared. People are worried about children, and there still seems to be a parallel in the public mind between homosexuality and molesting of children. People are generally suspicious too of any public official who is too knowledgeable. Why is he so interested? He must be in a position above reproach.

It is also unfortunate in our society that all sexual deviations are lumped together as illegal, Mr. Allen said. "Even murder isn't called an 'infamous crime against nature'."

"I am sure that many are incarcerated who have not done anything harmful to society," Mr. Allen declared, "while others who have are on the loose."

A partial approach to the solution of the problem, according to Mr. Allen, would be to realize that the "treatment" idea in relation to the homosexual is juvenile - those in the field should work to stop homosexual tendencies before they come into being, or care for those who are already practicing homosexuals in enabling them to make their adjustment to themselves and the society in which they live.

Another solution, he said, would be to differentiate the homosexual from the criminal - that is, those whose acts involve children, force, fraud or violence. "There is a need to accept homosexuality between consenting adults."

"As long as we don't interfere with the rights of others, freedom belongs to us all as a part of our American heritage," Mr. Allen concluded.

QUESTIONS FROM FLOOR

In answer to a query from the audience about blackmail and the fear of going to police officials for help, Mr. Reynard agreed that this does pose a two-headed problem. However, he said that authorities were inclined to be more concerned with the blackmail and robbery problem than in the homosexual reporting such a case.

"If we had a better definition of sex crimes, blackmail would disappear," he added.

Another in the audience stated that a New York newspaper took a survey on the Wolfenden report asking if this country should adopt a similar law and that three out of five were in favor of such action. The question - is it possible that public opinion may be more advanced than we think?

Mr. Allen replied that he didn't know if this poll was representative, but that he wishes it were so. He said that certainly progress is being made - for instance, since he had stated his position at this Convention it would be up to him to follow through.

When asked if public opinion were favorable, would he sponsor a bill in the legislature to amend existing sex laws, Mr. Allen replied that you never can truly measure public opinion, so you sponsor the bill anyway.

"Laws don't protect society from criminal sex offenders and do abrogate civil rights of citizens who are not harmful to society," he added.

HOMOSEXUALITY AMONG ABORIGINALS

Dr. Omer C. Stewart, professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado, delivered the banquet address, his subject being "Homosexuality Among American Indians and Other Aboriginal Peoples."

"All animals exhibit homosexual behaviour," Dr. Stewart stated. The closest parallel to man, the monkey and the ape, exhibit homosexual activity - female as well as male, though the female has been less frequently observed.

Homosexuality has been present throughout man's history and appears universally in all cultures, the anthropologist said.

He went on to describe the Berdache system and other homosexual evidences in the various tribes throughout the world, and it is hoped that in a future issue of THE LADDER we will be able to publish Dr. Stewart's entire paper on the subject.

He cited too the following conclusions from the cross-cultural comparisons made by Ford and Beach: Homosexuality is inherent in all mammals; it is never a predominant behaviour; it is more common in adolescence than in adult life; it appears more among men than women; it tends to be obscured in most societies, like our own, because of inhibitions - yet some individuals still exhibit homosexual behaviour.

"Since homosexuality is so widespread in the mammalian species and is found all over the world, it would seem proper to drop the term 'unnatural' when speaking of such behaviour," Dr. Stewart concluded.

DOB SPEAKS FOR LESBIAN

Del Martin, president of the Daughters of Bilitis, gave a summary of the September issue of THE LADDER, reporting the results of the questionnaire circulated by DOB last year. Copies of this issue are still available and may be obtained by sending 50 cents to THE LADDER, 165 O'Farrell St., Rm. 405, San

Francisco 2, California. If you know of any professional people who should know of this research program, please advise us.

Of particular interest to readers of THE LADDER may be Del's introductory remarks: "Last night when I received the award of honorary membership in the Mattachine Society, I replied that we are often accused of competing with Mattachine and that I was glad to see that you people recognized the fact that we were not. Perhaps to some of you the remark needs further clarification. But at every one of these conventions I attend, year after year, I find I must defend the Daughters of Bilitis as a separate and distinct women's organization. First of all, what do you men know about Lesbians? In all of your programs and your 'Review' you speak of the male homosexual and follow this with - oh, yes, and incidentally there are some female homosexuals too and because they are homosexual all this should apply to them as well. ONE has done little better. For years they have relegated the Lesbian interest to the column called 'Feminine Viewpoint'. So it would appear to me that quite obviously neither organization has recognized the fact that Lesbians are <u>women</u> and that this 20th century is the era of emancipation of woman. Lesbians are not satisfied to be auxiliary members or second class homosexuals. So if you people do wish to put DOB out of business, you are going to have to learn something about the Lesbian, and today I'd like to give you your first lesson."

After giving the summary of background and behaviour of 157 Lesbians in the DOB sampling, Del concluded: "One of Mattachine's aims is that of sexual equality. May I suggest that you start with the Lesbian? This would certainly be a 'new frontier in acceptance of the homophile'."

'ONE' IS MORE THAN MAGAZINE

James Kepner, Jr., chairman of ONE, Inc. and editor of "ONE Institute Quarterly on Homophile Studies", opened his remarks with the statement that ONE Magazine announced in their September issue the discontinuance of "Feminine Viewpoint" and the new policy of including material throughout the magazine on both the male and female homosexual.

He also clarified the fact that ONE, Inc. is more than a

magazine. While the earliest activity of the corporation was the publishing of ONE Magazine, the organization conducts many other activities including the Quarterly mentioned above, a school with college credit known as ONE Institute of Homophile Studies, social service, research, the most extensive library on the sex variant perhaps outside of the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research.

Mr. Kepner also clarified and justified the existence of the three separate national organizations, explaining the various approaches to a common goal of acceptance of the homophile. It is still conjecture as to which approach may be the right one, and certainly each of the organizations has much to offer. in the homophile movement, he said. While one organization may work with the variant in helping him to accept himself and make his adjustment to society, another may be dealing with public attitudes. One may be more outspoken than another, but while the approach may be different it is essential that all of the organizations still work together.

ANNUAL AWARDS AT BANQUET

It is customary at Mattachine's annual conventions to make an award of "Member of the Year". This year's award went to Mrs. Leah Gailey, San Francisco member who appeared on the KPFA radio program.

Honorary memberships were also awarded to Phyllis Lyon, editor of THE LADDER; Del Martin, president of DOB; James Kepner, Jr., chairman of ONE, Inc.; W. Dorr Legg, business manager of ONE; and Don Slater, editor of ONE.

TOUR OF CENTRAL CITY

A unique feature of the Denver Convention was the tour of Central City, an old mining town of Colorado - complete with guide in the guise of Bat Masterson.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

Although you've probably just finished your vacation, why not start planning now to come to San Francisco next May for the first DOB convention. It will be something special.

Editorial - GROWING PAINS

(Continued from Page 4)

be proofread, and then they are cut and pasted in the "dummy" - the rough facsimile of the completed magazine.

After the "dummy" is made up stencils must be typed, following the exact format of the "dummy". This is the second time each piece of material which appears in THE LADDER is typed.

All large headlines are made up by hand from "Art-Type" and then sent out to have negatives made from them.

After all the stencils are completed and the headlines have been returned from the photographer the material must be "stripped in". This means the stencils are carefully taped in place in a paper frame, exactly as they will be printed.

When this is completed the material is delivered to the printer - to return at the end of the week in bundles of pages. This is where THE LADDER work party comes in.

The pages must be correlated, folded, stapled and trimmed, and stuffed into the envelopes for mailing. Prior to the work party the Circulation Department has typed up duplistickers for each subscriber, pasted them on the envelopes, stamped the envelopes and placed the return address on them.

This, then, is the process your copy of THE LADDER goes through before it reaches your hands. And it is all done by volunteer labor. Many women work one night a week at the office - but just before LADDER deadline it usually is every night of the week.

As the DOB grows we hope the amount of money available for publication of THE LADDER will grow. And, to a great extent, this is dependent upon YOU. We cannot advertise our magazine in the usual channels. We are primarily dependent on word-of-mouth advertising.

May we urge you to send us the names and addresses of anyone you think would be interested in receiving THE LADDER. They will receive three "sample" copies, the first one accompanied by a letter advising them of the aims of the DOB.

There are now three chapters of the DOB throughout the country, and the possibility that others will come into being. The DOB will hold its first convention in San Francisco next May.

We are very proud of the progress both the DOB and THE LADDER have made in the past few years. We hope our "growing pains" will continue at the same rapid rate.

But, all of this is dependent upon you, our members, subscribers and friends. You alone can furnish us with both the financial and moral support needed to make the organization and the magazine serve you and all Lesbians as we would like to.

- Phyllis Lyon, Editor

WHY ARE YOU A LESBIAN?

As a part of the program of the DOB convention next May, we wish to present a summary of the "why" of Lesbianism not only from the so-called authorities points of view but also from the point of view of the Lesbian herself.

To do this we need your help. We ask that you send us a short summary - not more than two pages - of why you think you are a Lesbian. You need not sign your name, that is unimportant. Literary style is also unimportant.

All we want is a straightforward statement of your ideas as to "why".

A NEW AUTHOR

On page 9 of this issue we introduce a new writer to you - Jay Wallace. This story, one of three we plan to print, will one day be part of a book of short stories Miss Wallace plans to publish, entitled "Love is a Dandelion".

READERS RESPOND

"MY SEPTEMBER LADDER ARRIVED - I'M GLAD I SENT FOR EXTRA COPIES. WHAT A TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT. YOUR RESULTS CERTAINLY EXCEEDED WHAT I PERSONALLY EXPECTED. TO HAVE A RETURN OF 32% ON A PERSONAL OR RATHER SPECIFICALLY SEXUAL QUESTIONNAIRE EVEN FROM A HIGHLY SELECT GROUP IS STATISTICALLY AMAZING. IT CERTAINLY SHOWS A LARGER GROUP WILLING TO HELP OUR CAUSE THAN I HAD THOUGHT EXISTED. IMAGINE THE REMARKABLE THINGS ONE COULD DO SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY IF 32% OF THE ENTIRE LESBIAN POPULATION WERE ORGANIZED.

"THE MEDIAN AGE OF 32 IS HEARTENING. I BELIEVE THIS SHOWS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY OF LESBIANISM ACCEPTED AND PRACTICED BY THE CHRONOLOGICALLY MATURE. I WAS VERY SURPRISED BY THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND GRADUATE WORK. ON THE OTHER HAND MY FRIEND FEELS THAT THIS IS EASILY EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT THE MORE INTELLIGENT PERSON IS THE MOST LIKELY TO TAKE THE TIME AND TROUBLE TO REPLY. (KINSEY FOUND A DEFINITE INCREASE IN LESBIANISM AS HE PROGRESSED UP THE EDUCATION LADDER.) I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO EVALUATE YOUR DATA; FOR INSTANCE, HOW ABOUT A CORRELATION BETWEEN PROMISCUITY AND EDUCATION, ALSO BETWEEN PROMISCUITY AND AGE. (KINSEY FOUND LESS PROMISCUITY AMONG HIGHLY EDUCATED PEOPLE, BOTH HETEROSEXUAL AND HOMOSEXUAL, MALE AND FEMALE.)

"MAY I INTERPOLATE ONE POSSIBLE SUPERFICIAL CORRECTION, NAMELY THAT SINCE A TOTAL OF 71% OF YOUR SUBJECTS WERE EITHER CLERICAL OR PROFESSIONAL THEY PROBABLY ALL WORK FULL TIME - YEAR ROUND. THIS STRENGTHENS THE PARAGRAPH ENTITLED INCOME LEVEL ON PAGE 7.

"ONE REALLY INTERESTING ITEM CONCERNS LIVING QUARTERS. SO MUCH NONSENSE HAS BEEN WRITTEN ON THE SO-CALLED 'DRIFTING' CHARACTERISTICS OF LESBIANS. YOUR STUDY TENDS TO SHOW EXCEEDINGLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ROOTED PEOPLE. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FURNITURE OWNERS BECAUSE WOMEN TEND TO LIKE TO OWN THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS, BUT THE 27% WHO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES SHOW A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF BELIEF IN PERMANENCE. THIS PARTIALLY DISPELS THE MYTH OF THE SAD LONELY LITTLE QUEER WHO 'KNOWS' HER RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE BRIEF AND FURTIVE. OH YES, YOUR NEXT QUESTIONNAIRE OUGHT TO INCLUDE ARTISTIC PROFESSIONS AND ARTISTIC TALENTS.

"THE LACK OF MESSY FAMILY BACKGROUNDS IS STARTLING. ONE HEARS SO MUCH EMPHASIS PLACED ON 'MISERABLE YOUTH' THAT THIS PERHAPS SHOWS THAT HAPPY SOULS ARE AS LIKELY TO BE SOCIAL OR SEXUAL DEVIATES AS UNHAPPY ONES. THE 23% OF PARENTAL ALCOHOLICS SEEMS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. IF IT IS ACCURATE THEN SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN ALCOHOLIC PARENTS AND HOMOSEXUAL CHILDREN. PERHAPS THE ALCOHOLIC FATHERS WERE ALSO BRUTAL; SOMEHOW THIS SEEMS MORE PLAUSIBLE TOWARD CAUSATION THAN THE DRINKING ALONE. OR PERHAPS THE ALCOHOLIC PARENT CREATED ENOUGH CHAOS IN THE HOME TO MAKE THE CHILD SHY AWAY FROM HETEROSEXUALITY ON THE GROUNDS OF INSTABILITY. THE FACT 22% WERE ONLY CHILDREN OPENS THE THEORY OF OVER LAVISHED LOVE BY MAMA.

"IT IS EASY TO SEE WHY SO FEW LESBIANS ARE DEEPLY RELIGIOUS AND WHY THOSE THAT ARE TEND TO GO OVERBOARD. ON THE ONE HAND ALL ORGANIZED PROTESTANT FAITHS AS WELL AS CATHOLIC AND JEWISH ARE AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY. ON THE OTHER HAND THOSE LESBIANS WHO ARE VIOLENTLY RELIGIOUS TEND TO LEAN INTO MYSTICISM AND OCCULTISM.

"DELIGHTED TO SEE ONE OF MY PET THEORIES IN PRINT. I HAVE ALWAYS DISBELIEVED THE THEORY THAT LOTS OF BROTHERS TEND TO TURN GIRLS INTO LITTLE IMITATION BOYS, AND YOUR RATIO OF 52 BOYS FOR 100 GIRLS FITS IN WITH MY THOUGHTS VERY NEATLY. ALONG SAME LINES IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW MANY OF YOUR 157 SUBJECTS SPENT TIME IN A SEGREGATED INSTITUTION. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST THOROUGH WAYS OF UNCOVERING LATENT HOMOSEXUALITY - MOST OF THE FICTION AND NON-FICTION ON THE SUBJECT VERIFIES THAT. ON THE SAME SUBJECT THIS PIECE OF NEWS MAY INTEREST YOU. RECENTLY (1958) THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AT LAWRENCE, KANSAS, DISCONTINUED ALL SHARED ROOMS FOR SLEEPING. THE GIRLS DORMS STILL HAVE ROOMS WHICH 2 OR 3 GIRLS SHARE FOR STUDY AND SOCIAL LIFE BUT THEY HAVE NO BEDS OR COUCHES. THE GIRLS ALL SLEEP IN LARGE SUPERVISED DORMITORY-TYPE ROOMS WITH 20 OR 30 COTS TO A ROOM.

"TO ME PERSONALLY THE MOST AMAZING PART OF YOUR ENTIRE STUDY CONCERNS PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE. IT IS ABOUT 75% HIGHER THAN I WOULD HAVE GUESSED. YOU ARE VERY RIGHT IN SAYING IN YOUR CONCLUSION REGARDING FAMILY HISTORY (P. 13) THAT YOUR STUDY SHOWS VERY LITTLE OF THE DISTURBANCE SO OFTEN CLINICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH HOMOSEXUALITY. ONE POINT IN YOUR STUDY, AND INCIDENTALLY ALSO

IN KINSEY'S STUDY, IS MISLEADING. A GREAT NUMBER OF WOMEN ARE EXCLUSIVELY HOMOSEXUAL WITHOUT EVEN FAINTLY REALIZING IT. ANY FOOL KNOWS THAT A WOMAN COULD MARRY AND HAVE 20 CHILDREN AND NEVER HOLD A WOMAN'S HAND AND STILL BE GAY.

"NOW SADLY WE COME TO RELATIONSHIP AND PERMANENCE OF SAME. I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED THAT LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS WERE SECURE ENOUGH AND PAINFULLY THEY AREN'T. YOUR STUDY IS SO UNBIASED THAT I HAVE TO ACCEPT IT AS IT STANDS BECAUSE YOU CERTAINLY WOULD TEND TO EMPHASIZE PERMANENCE, AND THEREFORE IT IS JUST ONE MORE PROBLEM WE ALL HAVE TO WORK ON. FOR THE SAKE OF 'MY PEOPLE' I WISH WE PRESENTED A MORE SUBSTANTIAL FACE ALONG THESE LINES.

"MY FRIEND HAS HAD GRADUATE COURSES IN RESEARCH AND REPORT WRITING. SHE THINKS THAT THIS IS REMARKABLY WELL DONE AND CAREFULLY AND APPARENTLY ACCURATELY HANDLED. WE BOTH ARE TRULY AMAZ-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

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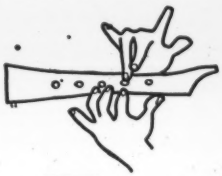

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* * * * *

"A MUCH BELATED THANKS FOR YOUR SPLENDID COOPERATION WITH REGARD TO MY REQUEST LAST MONTH. THE MATERIAL AND REFERENCES SENT WERE MOST APPRECIATED. THANKS TOO FOR PLACING ME ON THE MAILING LIST OF THE LADDER.

"BEING ASSIGNED AS A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN, WORK AMONG HOMOSEXUALS IS A DAILY EXPERIENCE, THUS YOU WILL SEE THAT ALL HELP YOU CAN DIRECT MY WAY IS VERY WELCOME. I SEE GIRLS BEING DISCHARGED REGULARLY, AND WISH THERE WAS LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN ESTABLISHING A DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS ORGANIZATION. SUGGESTIONS HERE WOULD BE WELCOME TOO."

CHAPLAIN, USA, TEXAS

* * * * *

"I AM A NEW SUBSCRIBER OF YOUR LADDER AND AM VERY PLEASED WITH IT.

"AM SORRY TO HEAR YOU ARE RAISING THE RATES, BUT WELL WORTH IT. EVERYONE UP HERE WISHES IT WERE A WEEKLY BOOK INSTEAD OF JUST ONCE A MONTH."

V. D., OREGON

* * * * *

"JUST RECEIVED MY AUGUST ISSUE OF THE LADDER AND PER USUAL HAVE DEVOURED EVERY WORD. I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED THE POEM 'PREFERENCE' BY AGATHA MATHYS. SOME AUTHORS HAVE TAKEN VOLUMES TO EXPLAIN WHAT SHE HAS SAID IN SUCH A FEW WELL CHOSEN WORDS.

"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK - THE LADDER HAS BEEN STEADILY IMPROVING. A PUBLICATION OF THIS KIND IS ONE OF THE HARDEST TO MAKE CLICK EVERY TIME, AND YOU CAN'T PLEASE SOME PEOPLE ANY OF THE TIME."

L. C., CALIFORNIA

Daughters of BILITIS

INCORPORATED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and San Francisco Chapter: 165 O'Farrell Street, Room 405, San Francisco 2, California
New York Chapter: 1133 Broadway, Room 304, New York 10, New York
Los Angeles Chapter: P. O. Box 3561, Long Beach, California.

MEMBERSHIP in the Daughters of Bilitis is limited to women 21 years of age or older. If in San Francisco, New York or Los Angeles area, direct inquiry to chapter concerned; otherwise write to National Office in San Francisco.

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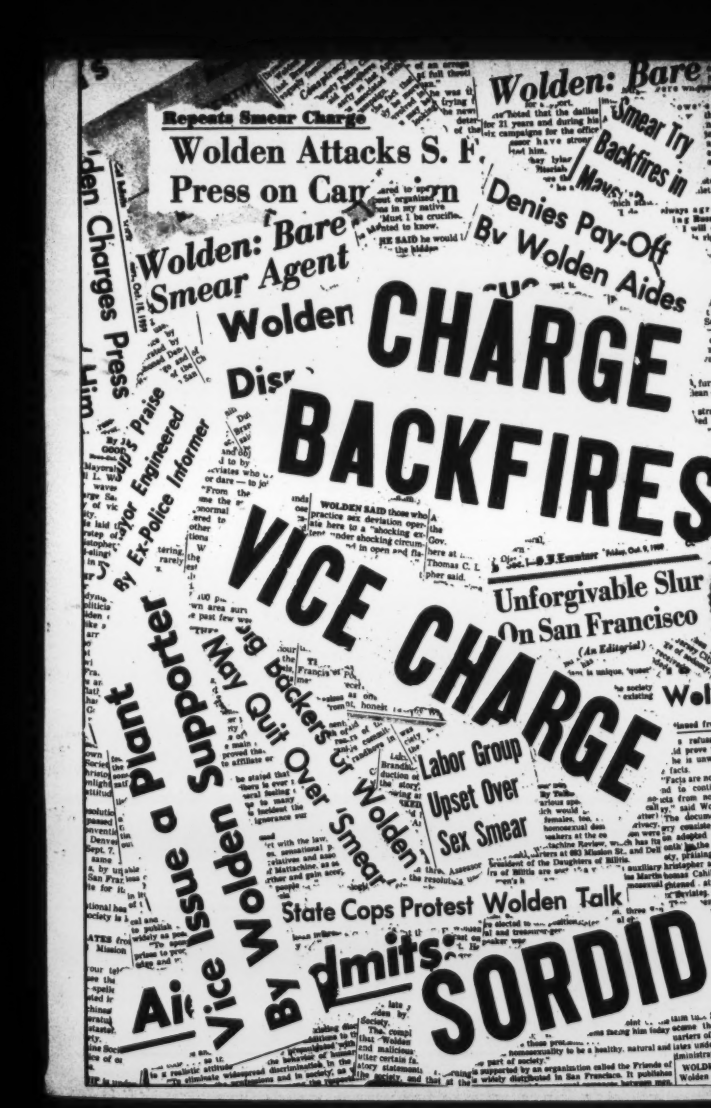
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